

Rafael Anchia

Biography

Rafael Anchia was elected in November 2004 as the representative of House District 103 in the Texas House of Representatives. District 103 covers a western corridor of Dallas, including parts of North Oak Cliff, West Dallas, La Bajada, Los Altos, Love Field, North Park and portions of the cities of Irving, Farmers Branch and Carrollton.

In the 82nd Legislative Session, Representative Anchia continues his service as Vice-Chair of the Pensions, Investments and Financial Services Committee and also serves on the Land and Resource Management Committee. Representative Anchia also continues to serve on the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission, to which he was appointed by Speaker Joe Straus in November 2009. On July 1, 2011, Representative Anchia was appointed to the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations by President Barack Obama. This Committee advises the U.S. Trade Representative.

Rep. Anchia maintains a genuine passion for helping people and true empathy for their struggles and aspirations. These qualities are a byproduct of his family background, varied professional training and numerous public, civic and volunteer commitments. During his service in the Legislature, Rep. Anchia has worked on legislation to fight crime, improve public safety, protect our environment and improve health coverage for women and children.

Rep. Anchia is the son of immigrants from Mexico and Spain who came to this great country in search of the American dream. As a child, he watched his mother work her way through college and was proud when she became a public school teacher. His father, who mainly worked nights, emphasized education and taught him the value of taking pride in honest, hard work. As part of his high-quality public school education in a new-immigrant community, he participated in a "court observer" program that inspired him to become a lawyer and enter public service. Rep. Anchia has always viewed educational opportunity and achievement as the gateway to personal and professional fulfillment. Expanding educational opportunities for others is a powerful, driving force underlying his public service.

His high school marks earned him a scholarship to Southern Methodist University, allowing him to triple-major in Latin American Studies, Spanish and Anthropology and graduate with Honors. During college, he attended the Centro Estudiantil Internacional in Madrid, studying Spain's, art, literature, politics and history and their influence in the Americas. A generous scholarship drew Rep. Anchia to Tulane University in New Orleans for his law studies where he concentrated on international and public law. In his legislative advocacy class, he worked on legislation that ultimately became law creating a statewide ombudsman to monitor conditions in Louisiana nursing homes. In law school, Rep. Anchia also served as a volunteer advocate for immigrant detainees denied the benefit of counsel.

Rep. Anchia began his public service at the local level where he was twice elected to the Board of Trustees of the Dallas Independent School District - the nation's 12th largest. During his tenure on the Dallas School Board, he served as First Vice President and chaired the Policy and Governance Committee. During his tenure as a Trustee, he helped lead the successful effort of the Dallas ISD to win public approval of a \$1.37 billion school bond package. He is proud that thousands of children in DISD benefit from new, improved and less-crowded classrooms.

Rep. Anchia is an attorney with the law firm of Haynes & Boone, LLP. He specializes in public and corporate finance. In addition to his legal work, Rep. Anchia has distinguished himself in pro bono service and contributions to his community, earning his prior firm's 2000 Pro Bono Associate of the

Year award. A colleague described Rep. Anchia as "someone who has proven his dedication to community service at every level, inspiring partners, associates and staff at the firm."

In 2003, Rep. Anchia also received the "Rising Star" award from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas for contributions made to improving the lives of young people in his community. And in 2005, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) honored Rep. Anchia as its national "Man of the Year" at its annual conference in Little Rock, Arkansas.

In November 2006, Anchia won unanimous re-election to the Board of Directors, and was chosen Chairman of the Board of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund for a three-year term. NALEO is the leading organization that facilitates full Latino participation in the American political process, from citizenship to public service. The national non-profit is a non-partisan organization whose members include the more than 6,000 Latino elected and appointed officials nationwide.

Anchia also is a member of various professional, civic and charitable organizations, including: the Leadership Dallas Alumni Association, the Dallas Assembly, the SMU Clements Center on Southwest Studies and the Oak Cliff Lions Club.

Most importantly, Rep. Anchia lives in North Oak Cliff with his wife, Marissa, and daughters, Sofia and Maia, and worships with the Catholic Campus Community at SMU.

Legislative Honors:

79th Session

Texas Monthly "Rookie of the Year": Each session, *Texas Monthly*